

SENATE RESOLUTION 31  
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Kent D. Syverud for meritorious service as Dean of Vanderbilt University Law School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as educators and administrators of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Kent D. Syverud has served with the utmost acumen and dedication as Dean of Vanderbilt University Law School and Garner Anthony Professor of Law since 1997; and

WHEREAS, Dean Syverud's many and varied accomplishments during his illustrious tenure at Vanderbilt University Law School include the recruitment of thirty new faculty members, including prominent lateral hires; the complete design, construction and fundraising for a new \$24 million building; the design and implementation of a new law and business program, L.L.M. program for foreign lawyers, the NYSE Directors College, and clinical programs on domestic violence and community economic development; the introduction of initiatives in student recruitment and student life; and the management of a successful \$40 million capital campaign set to close in June 2005; and

WHEREAS, while serving as Dean of the Vanderbilt University Law School, Professor Syverud also carries a substantial teaching load, and he was honored with the Paul Hartman Teaching Award by the School in 1998; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable scholar and gentleman also renders astute service to the University as a member of the Advisory Boards of the Vanderbilt Center for Teaching and the Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership in the Professions; and

WHEREAS, Dean Syverud has been a valuable contributor to the Law School Admissions Council, having served as a member of its Board of Trustees, Chair of the Finance and Legal Committee, and Chair of the Nominations Committee; he is presently Secretary to the Board and its Chair-Elect; and

WHEREAS, he presently serves with distinction as the President of the American Law Deans Association, and he has previously served as President of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools and Editor of the *Journal of Legal Education*; and

WHEREAS, Professor Syverud established a reputation as a preeminent scholar in complex litigation, insurance, and civil procedure at the University of Michigan Law School, where he taught from 1987-1997 and was the recipient of the L. Hart Wright Outstanding Teacher Award in 1989 and 1991; and

WHEREAS, his scholarship includes empirical studies of civil jury trials and the settlements that precede them, as well as the authorship of articles on teaching; and

WHEREAS, Professor Syverud has also practiced law at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering and clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; and

WHEREAS, he was a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania in 1997 and at the University of Tokyo in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Professor Syverud graduated *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service; earned a Master of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies; and graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Michigan Law School, where he served as Editor-In-Chief of *Michigan Law Review*; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Professor Syverud is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Ruth Chi-fen Chen, Ph.D. and their sons, Steven, Brian and David; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Kent D. Syverud for his dedication and exemplary service to the law and legal education in general and Vanderbilt University Law School in particular; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Kent D. Syverud for his meritorious service as Dean of Vanderbilt University Law School and extend our best wishes for every future success to this singular legal scholar, educator, administrator and human being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.